

THE CONGRESS IN SESSION

The House and Senate Called to Order at Noon.

David B. Henderson of Iowa Takes Up the Gavel in the House of Representatives and William P. Frye of Maine Presides Over the Senate—Early Scenes at the Capitol.

The Fifty-sixth Congress of the United States convened at 12 o'clock noon today. David B. Henderson of Iowa was elected Speaker of the House by a full vote of the Republican majority. James D. Richardson of Tennessee was nominated by the Democrats and received the vote of his party. Two minor nominations were made. John C. Bell, of Colorado, was nominated by the Populists, and Francis G. Newlands by the Silverites.

It was late in the session before the Roberts case was reached, and then the Representative from Utah was asked to step aside. This he did.

In the Senate, President Pro Tempore Frye called that body to order. After the usual prayer the new members were sworn in. Protests in the cases of Senators-elect Scott and Clark were presented and sent to the proper committee. The case of Senator Quay was also taken up and the certificate signed by the Governor of Pennsylvania was presented by Senator Penrose. The protests against him were filed and the case was sent to the proper committee.

Resolutions on the death of Vice President Hobart were presented by Senator Sewell of New Jersey, after the committee to notify the President, in conjunction with a similar committee from the House, had been appointed, and then the Senate adjourned until tomorrow, as a mark of respect to the late Vice President's memory.

Early Morning Scenes.

Contrary to the usual custom at the opening session of the House, but few people were seen in the galleries two hours before the time fixed by law for the clerk to call the House to order. Under instructions of the Speaker-elect, tickets had been issued for every seat in the large space reserved for visitors, and no one was permitted to pass into the gallery corridor unless the necessary pass was exhibited. This prevented the crowding of the upper corridors, which has been a feature of the opening day in the past.

The prospects of a discussion on the Roberts case and an expected protest against his taking the oath and a counter-protest against this interference, drew an immense throng to the Capitol. The halls below the gallery corridors were opened to all, and crowds streamed along them in a vain hope of securing some advantageous point to see and hear. Early in the morning petitions against Mr. Roberts were brought into the House lobby. They were from every State and Territory in the Union, comprising over 7,000,000 signatures. There were about two dozen rolls of them, circular in shape, each covered with an American flag. About 10:30 o'clock they were brought into the hall of the House and piled in the shape of a pyramid before the Speaker's desk. They reached to a height of about ten feet. At the base were a number of separate petitions. The usual crowd allowed on the floor prior to the opening of the session crowded around the pyramid and freely exchanged comments. The petitions were photographed by a local photographer, after which the pyramid was then taken down and the rolls placed before the desks in front of the Speaker's chair.

Shortly before 11 o'clock, under the direction of Representative Taylor, of the Elections Committee, the petitions were removed to the lobby. Mr. Taylor was asked if the petitions would be presented to the House. He said he did not know, but intimated that later in the day there would be interesting developments. It was these petitions would play an important part.

By 11 o'clock the galleries began to fill, ladies predominating. The variegated and rich colors of their costumes and waving hat plumes made a pretty scene. Those who were unable to secure reserved seats filled the lower corridors and the floor of the House, many attempting to catch members in the hope of getting tickets to the galleries at the eleventh hour.

Members Slow in Arriving.

The members were slow in arriving, not more than fifty being on the floor at 11 o'clock. Representative Roberts was the object of much interest. He appeared on the floor for a few minutes at 10 o'clock and held a brief conference with Representative James D. Richardson, but only a few recognized him. After his talk with Mr. Richardson he left the House to confer with his legal advisers.

As the members came in they went to their desks, near which they renewed acquaintances and exchanged greetings. As the hour for opening the session drew near the members gradually appeared on the floor and took their seats. The old members naturally secured the places they occupied during the last session, while the new members had pointed out to them the desks of their predecessors.

Representative Richardson was perhaps the most sought-after member in the House. Every few minutes he was receiving congratulations and the number of introductions of persons who wanted to meet the new leader of the minority was very large.

Before the Gavel Fell.

There was little demonstration on the Senate side of the Capitol during the morning. The galleries were slowly filled, and a dull, listless throng of spectators relieved the monotony by peering into the corridors. At 11 o'clock the galleries began to draw a holiday garb, and until the noon hour long lines of anxious persons crowded the halls and awaited even standing room within the closed doors of the public galleries. Shortly before 12 o'clock nearly every seat had been occupied. The ladies' gallery was a restless mass of color, in deep contrast to the solid black of the two other public seating places. In the diplomatic gallery were the members of the foreign embassies

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The district court decided in favor of the defendants, but this was reversed on appeal to the circuit court of appeals for the sixth district. The pipe companies brought an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States, which today decided that the combination was in restraint of commerce between the States. This is the first decision under the Anti-Trust law, where the law has been applied to anything but transportation.

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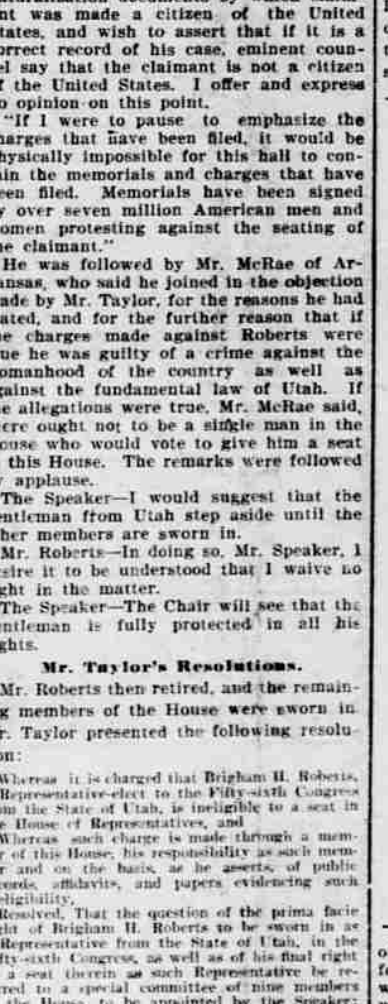
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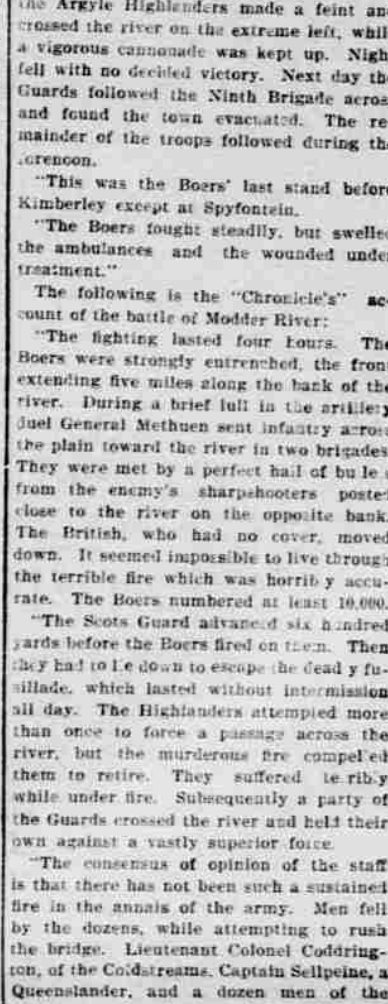
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